

Coccarde Tricolori 2018

Now in its seventeenth year, RN Publishing's Italian defence yearbook is the one-stop printed resource for any defence journalist or enthusiast looking to study Italy's armed forces.

While much of the text is in Italian, a substantial English summary at the rear of the book covers all the significant points within each of the main chapters. Each service is divided into chapters and sub-sections. One of the most significant developments within the air force is the entry into service of the F-35A. Examination of the text and images indicates the author has had unprecedented access to the pilots and ground crews responsible for bringing this aircraft into operational service. The air force content also includes Exercise Joint Star 2017, which involved Italian Air Force Tornados, HH-101As and AMXs.

As well as fast jets, the P-72A maritime patrol aircraft – which only recently entered service – is described in detail and accompanied by exclusive images illustrating its fully glass cockpit. All chapters

are complemented by high-quality images from official and private sources.

Of particular note is the exceptional photographic coverage of Blue Flag 2017 – the large-scale combined air exercise involving Israeli F-16s and F-15s, French Mirage 2000Ds and Italian Tornado IDS/ECRs. **Glenn Sands**

Publisher: RN Publishing
 Authors: Riccardo Niccoli, Paolo Valpolini and Luca Peruzzi
 Pages: 320
 Price: £26
 ISBN: 9788895011134



Modern Chinese Warplanes

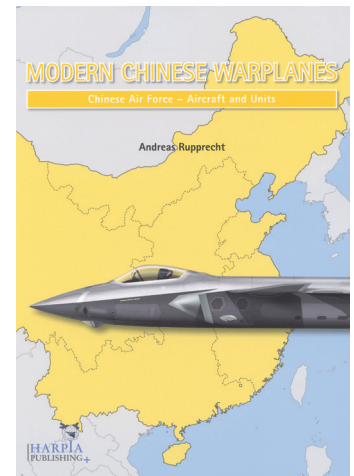
Chinese Air Force – Aircraft and Units

AFM contributor Andreas Rupprecht has established himself as a respected authority on modern Chinese air power among defence professionals and aviation enthusiasts alike. His latest book in the Harpia Publishing series provides updates on an air force that has made significant advances within its fighter and bomber fleets in the past five years. This fully revised volume provides a wealth of new information since the earlier 2012 publication.

Perhaps the most significant aircraft to emerge is Beijing's fifth-generation fighter – the Chengdu J-20A Mighty Dragon. The author covers its development in detail, including service entry and future improvements planned for China's first long-range stealth fighter. The electronics suite, weapons and the engine problems that plagued the jet's early development are explained in full.

This is much more than a detailed breakdown of China's air force types. Charts and diagrams illustrate the service's structure, disposition and order of battle. Specifications of armament include the latest information available in the West.

In addition to the high-quality text, the book is illustrated with stunning images. Mention has



to be made of the photos of J-10Cs and H-6Ks, many of which appear in print for the first time.

The selection of illustrations is the best I've seen to date on this topic and depicts the wide variety of types currently in service on the front line and with training, transport and support units.

This is a superb reference work on a secretive air force that's now flexing its muscles on the world stage. **Glenn Sands**

Publisher: Harpia Publishing
 Author: Andreas Rupprecht
 Pages: 256
 Price: £35.99
 ISBN: 9780997309263

Middle East @ War No 14 – Hot Skies over Yemen

Volume 2: Aerial Warfare over Southern Arabian Peninsula, 1994-2017

Yemen's troubled history has been dominated by civil war and conflict with neighbouring nations. Today it remains one of the most dangerous countries in the world and is seldom far from the headlines.

The latest clashes stem from the 1994 civil war which eventually led to the Yemeni government beginning a campaign against the rebel Houthi movement in 2004. As the conflict escalated and spread into Saudi Arabia, the neighbour's military responded. A Saudi-led military intervention was launched, and the nation's

air arm took a leading role in the ensuing campaign.

This book provides a detailed background to the fighting before describing the Arab coalition air strikes involving Tornados, Mirage 2000s, F-16E/Fs, F-15S Eagles and Typhoons.

There's an extensive timeline of the war and images of targets pre- and post-strike. Author Tom Cooper is renowned for sourcing and compiling exclusive information on modern-day conflicts and his examination of the Yemen campaign reflects

the dedication to his work.

Readers will also find aircraft colour profiles, maps showing the front line and centres of combat and extensive tables detailing dates of strikes and aircraft losses.

An excellent research work on an area of modern aerial warfare that has remained little studied until now. **Glenn Sands**

Publisher: Casemate Publishing
 Author: Tom Cooper
 Pages: 76
 Price: £16.95
 ISBN: 9781911628187



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